

Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR)
Executive Committee
November 24, 2020

Present: Cole Uecker, Brad Konechne, Kevin Barber and Eric Weiss. Others present Colette Wagoner, BVR staff and Julie Paluch, Interpreter.

Meeting was convened at 10:00 am/central time via Zoom.

The Executive Committee met to discuss the agenda for the upcoming December meeting. Prior to reviewing the draft agenda items, the “review of voting process” was discussed. Procedures are outlined in SD Codified Law that any official meeting conducted by teleconference (audio, video, electronic medium, including the internet) that with voting - each vote at an official meeting held by teleconference shall be taken by roll call per state law regarding official meetings open to the public.

Staff utilizes a separate sheet of paper to write in each motion, and it contains a listing of all voting members for roll call; and a checkbox is used to mark each member’s vote (“yes”, “no” or “abstain”). The minutes report how each individual member voted on any motion. Members were reminded that the Board’s information (agenda, minutes, list of members) can be found on South Dakota’s Boards and Commission’s portal. The link to the portal and the board’s (Vocational Rehabilitation Board) information can be found at: [Boards and Commissions \(sd.gov\)](https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov)

Draft Agenda: The Board of Vocational Rehabilitation is the State’s Rehabilitation Council. A question was asked why the SILC is specifically outlined on the agenda and some other entities are not (i.e., Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired). The Rehabilitation Act outlines language of “functions of the Council” (the Board). Language addresses coordination and the establishment of working relationships between the designated state agency and the Statewide Independent Living Council and centers for independent living within the state. Language also calls for coordination of activities with other councils. Under the BVR Staff Report, several activities which are coordinated with the SILC and Board of SBVI will be highlighted to include the National Disability Employment Awareness Month and Governor’s Awards. Eric spoke to being a B/SBVI member as well, and that he could highlight activities that this board is working on, if it is requested, as Cole could as well, as he is also a member. A suggestion was made that during the introductions section of the agenda, to encourage members to identify various roles they serve in, e.g., serving on boards/councils, belonging to associations. As members represent various organizations or disability related groups.

A question was asked about the Division Director's Report and if Eric could speak to the current situation (COVID-19) and the impact on services. The update could include information of how COVID has impacted pre employment transition services, how services are being carried out, what changes have been made/modified, obstacles overcome and what challenges remain.

Future Agenda Items: Cole invited members to think about items or topics that they would like addressed or want additional information on and to bring these forth for consideration. Cole brought up the Comprehensive Transition Program topic as this has been an item of discussion during the last few board meetings. He explained he keeps raising this issue as he served on the Consumer Services Committee when the Augie Access program was discussed. The committee has not met since new members were appointed and Lisa Sanderson termed off the board. Lisa was chairing the committee at the time. Cole noted it might be time to let it rest for a bit, but he would like to explore or continue dialogue with Augie Access staff about the ability to make some adjustments to its programming which will assist individuals with intellectual disabilities work towards employment related goals in which the Division can provide support to eligible consumers with participation, depending upon their employment goal.

Eric spoke to the topic of transportation and noted that Jess Marlow is prepared to talk about River City Transit during the December meeting. This is a local transit provider based out of Pierre. Eric talked about transportation and how it is addressed in the State Plan. There is language in the state plan goals and objectives to increase knowledge of available transportation systems, etc. He inquired about other areas members felt would be good. River City Transit could provide a local perspective, he asked about a broader perspective/state level (e.g., have someone from the Department of Transportation attend and provide a broader perspective). Brad offered to speak with the Brookings local transit provider and have her speak to what is done in Brookings (overview of the transit system, coverage area, etc.) knowing that each community is different. Brad agreed to contact Brenda Schweitzer to see if she is willing and available to speak with the Board at the December meeting. Brad will communicate with staff, in order to finalize the agenda. Eric also suggested having Jennifer Trenhaile, new board member speak about the Yankton District Office to give members an idea of service provision and collaborative working relationships.

There were no other discussion items. The meeting concluded at approximately 11:15 am.